



Georgia On My Mind

Monthly Newsletter of the ARRL Georgia Section



August 2023

So Many Awards!!

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Upcoming Events

- 9/9 - Villa Rica Gold Rush Special Event
- 9/9 - Praters Mill Swapfest
- 9/15-16 - Georgia Jewel Race, Dalton
- 9/23-24 - 6 Gap Race, Dahlonega
- 9/23-24 - Peach 150
- 10/28 - POTA Sprint
- 11/4-5 - Stone Mtn. Hamfest & ARRL Convention

Georgia on My Mind is a monthly newsletter of the ARRL, Georgia Section, highlighting the activities of Amateur Radio Operators and Clubs within the State.

To submit pictures, articles, or notices, please email the editor Karen Spradlin, K4LJS, at GeorgiaSectionARRL@gmail.com before the 5th of each month.

To see previous issues of **Georgia on My Mind**:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1f6WBBhYzN-4Z-D69x0ceGIIpGcQulWI1?usp=share_link

A Message from ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR

Dear ARRL members,

Yesterday, the ARRL Board of Directors completed their second annual meeting. I'm writing to let you know that they made the tough, but necessary, decision to increase the regular membership dues rate to \$59 a year starting January 1, 2024 (see [2024 Dues Rates](#)). Additionally, we have chosen to separate the printed, mailed magazine from regular membership. Members will be able to choose whether they want to add-on a print subscription to any of our magazines including *QST*, *On the Air*, *QEX*, and *NCJ*. All members will continue to have online, digital access to each of these four magazines and the digital archive as part of their regular membership benefits.

This is only the second time in 22 years that ARRL has raised our dues. It is a necessary part of ensuring ARRL is supported so we can continue to promote and fight hard for our Amateur Radio Service, while providing benefits and services for our members that increase your knowledge and enjoyment of ham radio.

To help us make this decision, we invited every ARRL member to participate in a survey in May. Over 20,000 members responded (you can view the survey results [here](#)). We know from the survey results that most of you will find the new rate reasonable, or even ask why we didn't set it higher. We also know that some may find the rate is too high. As I've shared with many of you during my visits at hamfests and conventions, each of us has a responsibility to be active participants, and to support ARRL if we want to increase our ranks and ensure a lasting legacy for amateur radio's future.

POTA in Nova Scotia, KO4WFP

When it gets hot as it does here in Georgia in June and July, what better idea than to travel to Nova Scotia and activate parks during your trip?! That is exactly what I did this summer after being inspired by a trip Thomas Witherspoon K4SWL took last year to Canada. In order to pull off this idea, I had to not only acquire QRP equipment and the knowledge base to deploy & use this equipment, I had to work within the limitations of traveling by air with no checked luggage. And I'd activate parks with which I had no familiarity except limited information from local hams. Whew - what a challenge!

I purchased a KX2, AX1, and EFRW QRP Tufteln antenna. The month and a half before I left for Nova Scotia, I pulled off four QRP CW activations in Georgia, South Carolina, and Alabama learning to use my new equipment. Installing antennas in trees always intimidated me for some reason but now I had to learn this skill. And surprisingly, it wasn't that difficult following the lead of Thomas and an arborist's videos he referenced. By the time the trip rolled around, I felt prepared and ready.



My first two attempts at activating - the Halifax Citadel National Historic Site (VE-4841) and the Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site (VE-4826) were challenging. The Citadel threw site limitations, noise, and a sudden downpour at me. The Alexander Graham Bell site had noise but also some of the worst band conditions. A friend tried to hunt over ten parks that day and could only make contact with one. I feel certain if I had 100 watts instead of the 5 watts of my KX2, I



could not have done any better. I was unable to successfully activate either of these parks.

With confidence flagging, Cape Breton Highlands National Park (VE-0013) was next on the list. The site offered great conditions - no rain and the perfect tree with a picnic table nearby.

The bands were more favorable and many friends were hunting me that day. I logged ten CW contacts right before my KX2 died! (Since that time, I have stayed on top of charging it after every activation.) My first successful activation in Canada! It felt like I had won an Olympic medal.



Next on the list was Fort-Anne National Historic Site (VE-4832) in Annapolis Royal. This park



proved to be my favorite place to activate partly because of its ambiance and partly the ease of activating. I located the perfect tree quickly and set up on top of one of the earthen embankments of this old fort. By bouncing back and forth between 17 and 20 meters, it wasn't long before I had a successful activation.

POTA in Nova Scotia, KO4WFP, part 2

My husband and son were booked on a whale-watching tour that afternoon. Given the choice of seeing whales or playing radio, you know what I chose - POTA, of course! Lake Midway Provincial Park (VE-0092) is a fifteen-minute drive up the road from the boat launch. It took me a bit to decide where to set up but once my decision was made, it didn't take long to get up and running. However, the bands were not as cooperative as earlier in the day and it took me two hours to log eleven CW contacts. I had just enough time afterwards to quickly pack up my stuff and meet my husband and son after their excursion.



Lake Midway Provincial Park (VE-0092)
QTH was the picnic table on the right side of photo

At this point in the trip, I had three unsuccessful activations (including one at the Truro Post Office National Historic Site VE-5847) versus three successful activations. I could call it quits with an even score. But I am not one to do that and I opted for one more unplanned activation at Grand-Pré National Historic Site (VE-4839).

The rainy start to the day was not promising. I found an acceptable site at the edge of the parking lot for RVs, slogged through the water-logged grass and soil to deploy my EFRW antenna, and set up in the front passenger seat of the car. I logged six CW contacts on 17 meters and then heard nothing. (I later learned a noise appeared on the band that covered up my QRP signal.) Moving to 20 meters gave me the remaining CW contacts I needed for a successful activation.

What a journey this trip was for me as an op. Seven activations over eight days. All QRP far from home. I grew as an op, gained experience and new skills. Putting up an antenna in a tree was now no big deal. I survived the challenges presented to me and persevered until conditions out of my control forced me to capitulate.

I am a "POTA babe" through and through. I love

this hobby and will continue to search for more challenges and opportunities to grow. If you'd like to read the reports for each of these activations, they are posted on [QRPer.com](https://qrper.com) via the following link: <https://qrper.com/tag/teri-ko4wfp/?swcfpc=1> Hope to see y'all on the air!



SkyWarn Chat & Map

The NWSSChat (1.0) went away August 1st. It was replaced with the NWSSChat 2.0 which will be on the "Slack" platform. If you were at the state meeting in Forsyth, you heard about this changeover. I mentioned then it would probably take place this summer and it is. This is a NATIONWIDE change over and is a HUGE undertaking by the NWS. Not only have they hired consultants with Slack to do nothing but work with the NWS on this changeover but there is someone nationally within the NWS to also deal with it.

Now AT THIS TIME the ONLY people being approved for this within our community is the WX4PTC team members and the Skywarn Coordinators. I have shared that list of people with David Nadler (Warnings Coordinator) at the NWS office in PTC. THOSE ARE THE ONLY ONES BEING APPROVED besides the other public service and media that work in conjunction with the NWS during storms. This was through spreadsheets I have shared with Dave. So again if your not on that list you will not be approved at this time.

If you have questions about this email me directly at kd4ydc@gmail.com.

Remember there are several ways of reporting severe weather. Here are several ways with online forms, social media and telephone.

- 1) Contact your Skywarn Coordinator for your county. If you do not know, contact your EC for that information. I am not going to post that information here because you need to have that pipeline to your EC. Also, if you do not have one for your county... this might prompt your EC to get one! ECs and DEC's do not have access to NWSSChat 2.0 at this time unless they are a Skywarn Coordinator.
- 2) Pass the information along to WX4PTC via the [Georgia Skywarn Linked Repeater System](#). Hopefully your Skywarn Coordinator is holding weather nets for your area and can be passed in that direction for them to pass along. If not then you can get on the linked system and pass it along. As mentioned in the state meeting, it is MUCH better to have a local net and then pass info to the state net. (Best way) Also as mentioned in the state meeting WX4PTC is not always activated. That is always left up to the NWS on whether to have WX4PTC activate. And no, we are not going to activate for every pop up storm. I.E. why we have other ways to get in the information to the NWS.

Skywarn Coordinators - Please go through your approval process ASAP. It really is critical to make sure everything is working right for you before the switch over.

Robert Burton, KD4YDC
DEC NWS in PTC

One of the things missing from NWSSChat 2.0 is the map interface showing all the warnings, watches and advisories. That may be coming in a future update, but for now there's no map.

To help remedy this, I've created a new web map product called the [NWSSChat 2.0 Companion Map](#). Think of this as a very stripped down version of the [ARES SE US Situational Awareness Map](#). All it shows is weather radar, warnings, watches and advisories. Everything in the map is an official NOAA weather product and is pulled from their servers. There are no commercial weather data feeds or sources in the map. What you see in the map is what is being referenced and discussed in NWSSChat.

For those of you who have NWSSChat 2.0, my recommended set up is to have NWSSChat running in one tab or window, and this map running in another tab or window, so you can get a visual check on what's happening weather wise. The data layers are set to update every 5 minutes.

Here's the link to the map: <https://bit.ly/3KkEAe5>

I understand not everyone has, or will have, access to NWSSChat 2.0, but this is still a useful tool! Think of it as current weather watches and warnings without the fluff found in commercial weather apps. It also runs well on mobile devices, and if you add it to your phone and enable location services it will center the map on your location. Both my wife (KQ4IZK) and I have added it to our home screens on our phones, and it works very well.

This map is an open resource that's free for anyone to use, so go ahead and share the link.

A few days ago I recorded an on-line meeting where I reviewed the recent changes to the Situational Awareness Map. Video length is 37 minutes.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gCXcEx0Vhrq1mjPi0ZorgA8yOAAIKNBk/view?fbclid=IwAR0ZDpSlx9Af0Z_Cld63yzK2M7d3j_BX4y98gNt1koYfAAzFueIVVWr7wWU

Brian Haren, W8BYH
Fayette County ARES

Emergency Response News

Hurricane Watch Net Seeks Bilingual Net Control Operators



The [Hurricane Watch Net](#) (HWN) is looking for new members who are willing to train to become Net Control Operators. HWN is especially interested in recruiting bilingual operators who are fluent in Spanish and English or French/Creole and English. Net Control responsibilities can entail hours of duty to ensure all received ground-truth weather reports are forwarded directly to the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

The net generally activates whenever a system has achieved hurricane status and is within 300 statute miles of a populated landmass. This can vary, however, due to the forward speed and intensity of a storm, or at the request of the forecasters at the National Hurricane Center. Once activated, the HWN continuously operates until a storm is no longer a threat to life and property.

The mission of the net is to disseminate the latest advisories issued by the National Hurricane Center, and to obtain real-time, ground-level weather conditions and initial damage assessments from amateur radio operators in the affected areas. The net then relays that information to the National Hurricane Center by way of WX4NHC, and when required, the Canadian Hurricane Centre. It also functions as a backup communication link for the National Hurricane Center, National Weather Service Forecast Offices, the Canadian Hurricane Centre, Emergency Operations Centers, emergency management agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other vital interests that can involve military relief operations. Such operations can be involved in the protection of life and property before, during, and after a hurricane event.

HWN Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, says training will be provided and each candidate will go through a probationary period with a mentor. Graves, an ARRL member, says an applicant's station must be reliable. "While having a tower, beam, and/or amplifier is not a requirement, your station must allow you to hear and be heard. Therefore, directional antennas and amplifiers are preferred," he said.

The net coverage area includes the hurricane-prone areas of eastern Canada, the US East

Coast, the Gulf of Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. The net specifically seeks applicants in the middle-to-western sections of the US, Canada, Central America, and the Caribbean. "As always, the HWN is hoping for a quiet season, yet [we are] prepared for the worst," said Graves.

Those interested in learning more can visit the HWN Net Control Information web page at https://hwn.org/about-us/ncs_info.html

From the ARRL Letter 7/27/23

GA ARES needs your help!!

We are really short on Net Control Operators for our Digital Nets. In the even numbered months, we run both a PSK 125 and the MT63, nets. With the loss of a Net controllers, weather damage to antennas, etc.. over the last few months we are really hurting to keep these nets alive. These are strong operational points, and bullet points that we use to show the State of Georgia, ARRL, and our other partners what we are capable of when the time is needed for GA ARES to jump into action. I would like to ask if some of you would like to help and be a Net Control on the even months and run the Digital Check in Net. You do not need to have any Net Control experience, or expert experience on FIDigi program, we have great resources and people that will be happy to help you get setup, running and understand how to operate the digital programs. If anyone is interested please email me and I would be happy to talk more to you about this.

W4RZ @ W4RZ (dot) COM
Kory, W4RZ

Southeast District Amateur Radio Emergency Services

One hour presentation of the "Importance of Ham Radio in Disasters" with Craig Fugate, KK4INZ, FEMA Administrator 2009-2017

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7t9UOwGm74&si=EHWzIKoPKaxiAFzp&fbclid=IwAR3pY-WQx674KUY1y68E51NFBRYB-H7ag6RIXzfgEnh042XQyZnIrCihJgw>

Club Activities

Gordon County POTA

We got to go POTA this morning (7/29/23) for the 1st time in more than a month. AG4JO Gil and myself K4DDE Kelly @ Carter's lake WMA k7899 over 115 contacts



including some locals NG4DX, AF4DN & K4SJR thanks guys. we only lasted a few hours due to heat and humidity but we had fun.

Members of the **Athens Radio Club** assisted with the Millidge Mile Race on July 29th. This is a unique race – only one mile long but with five waves of runners. There are clocks every quarter mile that



must be started at the same time for each wave,

and before ham radio was involved that was a very difficult task. Now all they must do is give the START order and everyone hears it at the same time. The ham operator assigned presses a button all and clocks are synchronized. Coffee and fellowship at Jittery Joe's after the race has become a tradition. Fun was had by all.



Jasper Radio Club



More crazy antennas, courtesy of Frank, K4SJR and Ricky, NG4DX for use in ARES and POTA activities



Barrow County



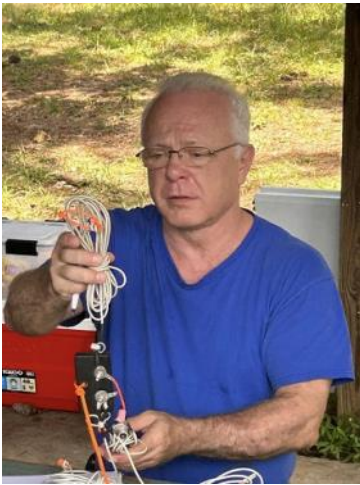
We are out at the Barrow County Farmer's Market today (Saturday, Aug. 5) talking to the public about Amateur Radio. Stop by and say hello and shop the market while

you're here!

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Atlanta Radio Club

Top three things heard at the Sunday (7/16/23) ARC Antenna Build out at Brook Run Park... in no particular order
We never have a shortage of nuts here.
Whose blood is that?
Who brought the strippers?



We are in that time of the year again; the local and national events have kicked off in full swing. Several of the HAMS on one or more of these Group.IO boards have volunteered in the past for the Atlanta Peach 150, and I want to thank you again for that, and ask again for your assistance this year. Below is a brief run down and description of the event. If you are interested, please email me back here or personally, with in a day or two I will see the Group.IO response and reply. Closer to the event time, I will watch the groups more closely.

Greeting and welcome to the 2023 National Multiple Sclerosis Society ATLANTA PEACH 150.

The event has a current minimum needed of 13 HAMS for each day, between SAGS/MOTOs/Rest-Stops.

We will have 2/3 rental sag vehicles both days (maybe more), there will also be a need for HAM ride along/driver, you can sign up for these on the website. These Hams will need to bring a small mag mount 2m antenna to put on top of the vehicles, and either a cigarette lighter plug-in mobile rig, or a good, powered HT attached to the mag

mount antenna. NMSS pays for gas etc, for these vehicles via gas cards. I am still waiting the final roster break down from NMSS, so I do not know at this time the total number of SAGS and MOTO's (motorcycles), needed. We usually have a group of MOTO's out of Atlanta area that are hams come down and support the event (I hope James sees this; I couldn't survive without MOTO 1).

Each rest stop will have drinks and snacks. Usually water, Gatorade, chips, fruit etc. As event volunteers you are welcome to use these supplies. Like most rides we are not responsible for setting up or tear down of Rest-Stops. There is usually another group that does this from Boy scouts to High School cheerleader squads. If the HAM wants to assist that is up to the individual at that time, I see no issue with assisting with the idea kept in mind it is their responsibility to keep it manned and running not ours. For most of the Rest-Stops, you will be the only link of communication for the event, we play a vital role in this bike ride.

The link below is the website for the event, if you decide to sign up online, PLEASE PLEASE make sure you email me you name, callsign, date(s) you will volunteer, which location you will be at, so I can make sure I have an active roster up to date. I would prefer you email me you volunteer status, location, and date(s), it makes organization so much easier, I do not have access without asking for who signed up online. This is a bad look in my opinion..

My goal this year is to have 1 HAM at each location (or more would be great), IF we have more HAMS that want to volunteer, it will only help in the end showing NMSS and the community our eagerness to assist. Please visit the NMSS website for more details [ATLANTA PEACH 150](#)

Dalton Amateur Radio Club

GA JEWEL RACE SEPT 15-17

Gentlemen....

It's that time of year again! I'm hoping you can all participate again this year in the same locations as before. I may not have sent this to the correct team leader in every case, so pls forward on. VHF packet will be the winlink mode of choice.

I need to get a rough headcount for the race director – she is buying T-Shirts for all of our volunteers. Please get me as much info as you can by 8-14.

Looking forward to it!

Hank, K4HYJ

from p. 1

You told us that you value ARRL's advocacy efforts, including spectrum defense, standing up to regulators and policymakers, and our work in other areas that defend, promote, and grow amateur radio - including STEM outreach to schools, teachers, and youth. **There is no other organization that is working harder to advance a vision that allows any citizen to explore, develop, and practice radio communications and radio technology.**

Your feedback showed us the many benefits, services, and programs you use - from Logbook of The World, to the work done by the ARRL Lab to test equipment for product reviews. While our magazines topped the list of benefits, many of you also shared that your reading preferences have changed. Some of you prefer print, and increasingly members prefer digital. As a result, for those who prefer print, you will be able to subscribe to *QST* and/or *On the Air* magazine. Again, all members will continue to have access to the digital editions of all four ARRL magazines. Have you ever heard a Life Member say, "I got a good deal when I signed up for Life Membership 25 (or 30, or 40...) years ago." They're right! They got a good deal, but continuing to serve Life members is not sustainable without making some changes. So, we're going to freeze new applications for the program, not adding any new Life Memberships until we can price the offering to be revenue neutral over its term. And, again, as more members prefer digital, we'll be asking current Life Members to opt-in if they want to continue to receive *QST* by mail.

The cost of doing business goes up every year. During the last couple of years, the costs associated with printing and postage have increased significantly. We've cut and delayed hiring for some positions on our professional staff - one of the smallest teams we've had staffing our headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, in years. We are also continuing to examine other cost-saving measures, but we cannot go further without reducing or eliminating benefits and programs which our members have told us are important to them.

I can assure you that the ARRL Board exercises due diligence and oversight in making sure your association is a good steward of your membership dollars. The reality is that ARRL does a lot -

in fact much more than dues cover.

ARRL shares your passion for amateur radio. We are committed to strengthening and growing our community, and protecting our rights to use and experiment on our amateur radio spectrum. We have a 109-year track record that includes YOU as part of that ongoing legacy of support for amateur radio and ARRL.

73

Rick Roderick, K5UR

Georgia Fall POTA Sprint (formerly the South Georgia Club vs Club POTA Event)

I've made major changes to the event that we held last year, and I've invited the whole state to participate. I've also opened it up to individuals.

Greetings! If you are able to participate in the Georgia Fall POTA Sprint (formerly known as the Club VS Club POTA Event), registration is now open on our club's website.

Please go to our website and register and check out the rules. It's going to be a bit different this year! I also believe that there will be much more competition statewide. The 4-hour sprint is open to clubs OR individuals this year.

<http://wd4kow.org/forms-rules-register/>

Spread the word! Clubs or individuals may participate this year!

WD4KOW is already signed up. Check out our webpage at <http://wd4kow.org> for all the good stuff.

-Robbie W1RCP

NW District ARES

Battery Building Class, 8/12/23



POTA Awards 1



AWARD LEVEL **EAGLE'S NEST**

(K-4473) Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest

Entity

08/03/2023

Date Jason Johnston, W3AAX, POTA Coordinator

That
**Kenneth Franklin Dean
K4SJR**

has submitted proof of having contacts from the same Parks on the Air entity more than 100 times.

REPEAT HUNTER OFFENDER

POTA PARKS ON THE AIR



AWARD LEVEL **FOX DEN**

(K-4473) Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest

Entity

08/06/2023

Date Jason Johnston, W3AAX, POTA Coordinator

That
**Kenneth Franklin Dean
K4SJR**

has submitted proof of having contacts from the same Parks on the Air entity more than 140 times.

REPEAT HUNTER OFFENDER

POTA PARKS ON THE AIR



POTA PARKS ON THE AIR

Hunter Award

late shift

That
**Kenneth Franklin Dean
K4SJR**

has submitted proof of having 500 QSOs during the late shift.

Jason Johnston, W3AAX, POTA Coordinator

10/24/2022

Date



POTA PARKS ON THE AIR

That
**Kenneth Franklin Dean
K4SJR**

has submitted proof of park-to-park QSOs with 725 Parks on the Air entities.

Jason Johnston, W3AAX, POTA Coordinator

07/19/2022

Date

725



AWARD LEVEL **OASIS**

(K-4473) Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest

Entity

08/06/2023

Date Jason Johnston, W3AAX, POTA Coordinator

That
**Kenneth Franklin Dean
K4SJR**

has submitted proof of having contacts from the same Parks on the Air entity more than 120 times.

REPEAT HUNTER OFFENDER

POTA PARKS ON THE AIR



POTA PARKS ON THE AIR

KILO AWARD ACTIVATOR

That
**Kenneth Franklin Dean
K4SJR**

has submitted proof of one thousand QSOs from the same Parks on the Air entity:

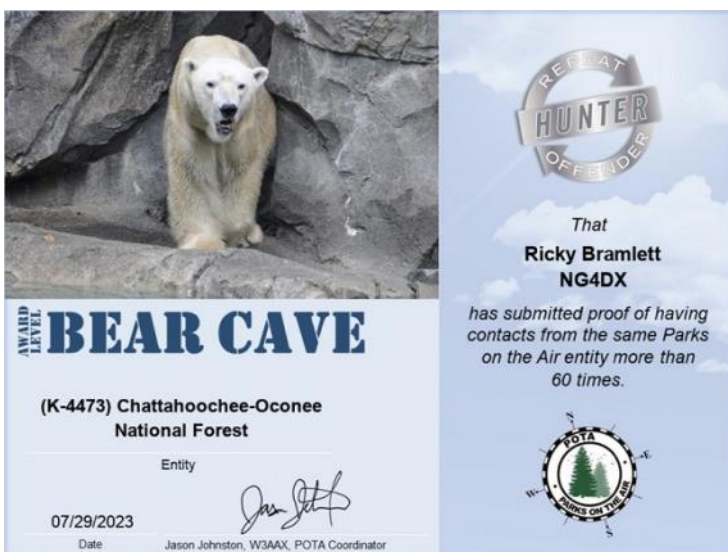
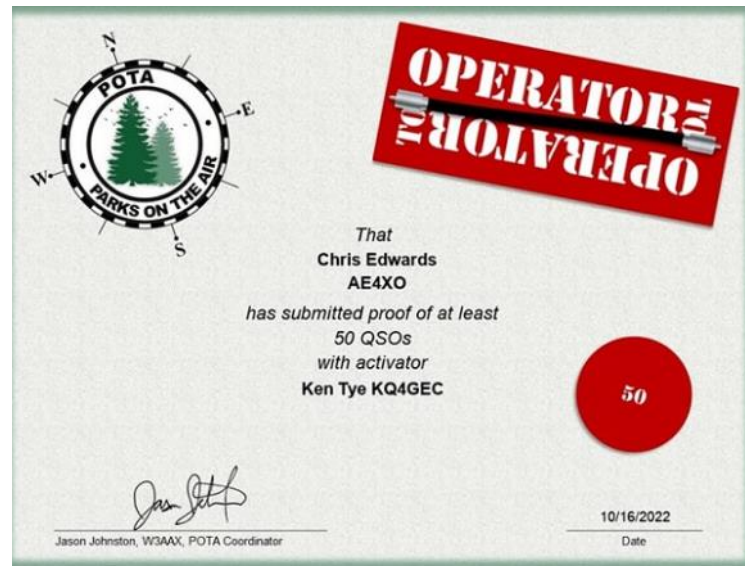
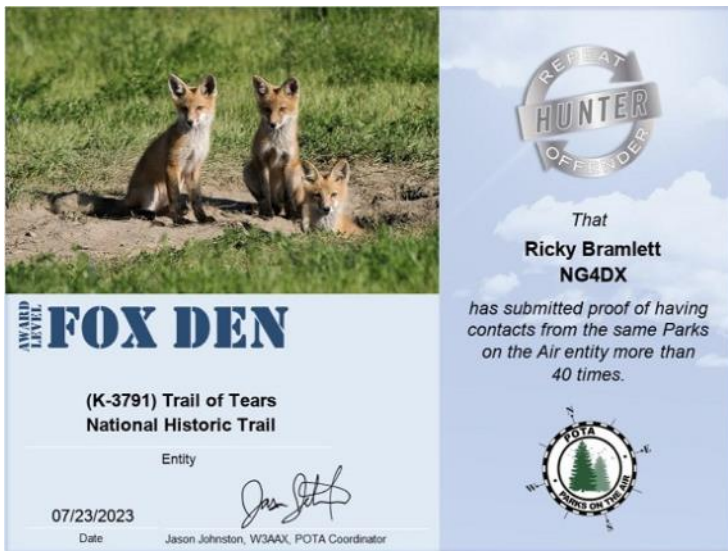
(K-4473) Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest

08/06/2023

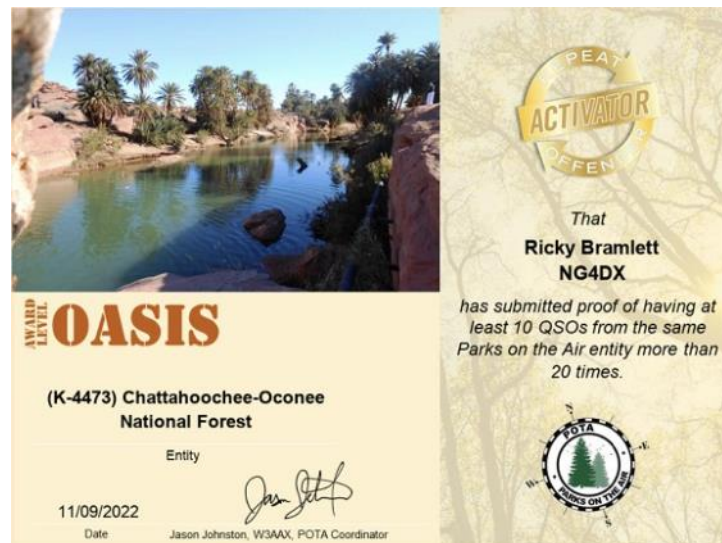
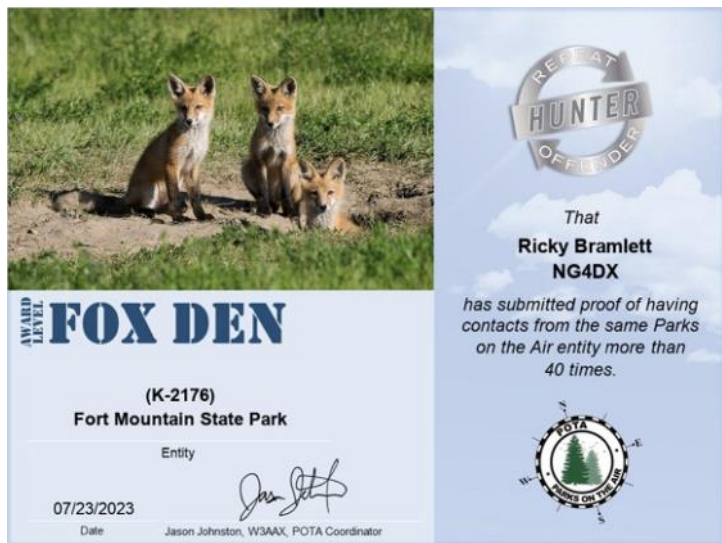
Date

Entity Name Jason Johnston, W3AAX, POTA Coordinator

POTA Awards 2



POTA Awards 3



Dots, Dashes & Tidbits

NW GA District ARES is still going strong, with its Digital Exercises. Join in the Fun, see below.

Come join in on the HF Vara P2P Exercise on Tuesday nights. The time is 6 pm- 8 pm. We have added the 40 meter band as you can see below. We're also using the 60 meter band. Send a simple Winlink message to each Net Control when you connect. Make sure the message is sent as a P2P message when you do.

Here are the frequencies to be used.

CF-Center Frequency / DF- Dial Frequency

80 meters - K4HYJ - CF 3597.00 / DF 3595.50
60 meters - NG4DX - CF 5348.00 / DF 5346.50
40 meters - W4JNR - CF 7084.00 / DF 7082.50
10 meters - KN4CNX - CF 2808.00 / DF 2878.50

A.R.E.S. Monthly Report for July 2023

Number of DECs/ECs reporting - 51
Number of ARES nets - 2000
Nets with NTS liaison - 5
Number of Exercises &
Training Sessions - 707 (2606 hrs.)
Number of Public Service events - 25 (309 hrs.)
Number of Emergency Operations - 1 (3 hrs.)
Number of SkyWarn Operations - 24 (165 hrs.)

Total of Exercises & Events 757

Total of person hours 3083

2023 Georgia ARES NVIS Exercise

07 October 2023

Sponsored by Georgia ARES

Coordinated by Fayette County ARES

In cooperation with Georgia ARES, Fayette County ARES will sponsor the 2023 NVIS (near-vertical incidence skywave) communications exercise

This exercise will be designed to allow ARES groups and individuals to test the effectiveness of their NVIS antenna and station setups

With NVIS it's not about how far you can communicate - we all know we can work DX from our stations

With NVIS it's all about short distance comms on 40, 60 & 80 meters - can you get to the state EOC, your county EOC, or regional EOCs with critical voice or digital traffic when line-of-site comms are down?

Georgia Section Nets

ARES Phone & Digital Nets

Note: GA ARES Net information can be found at gaares.org – Select Nets & Frequencies

Georgia Section ARES Net:

Section Net Manager – Frank Hobbs, KN4QJ

kn4qj@arrl.net

Net control operator – Frank Hobbs, KN4QJ

Alt. net control operator – Jim Altman, W4UCK

Georgia Section ARES Digital Nets:

Section Digital Net Manager, Don Jones, K4GO

k4go@arrl.net

Digital Team Leaders also serve as net control operators.

Winlink Team Lead, Russell Prevost, AB4QQ

Net control operators: Brian Freeman KN4DLT, Mark Bell N7GRB, Bill Hall K9HRO, David Blubaugh, ND1J

PSK & Traffic Nets Team Lead, Del Davis, W4DEL

Interim Team Lead: Kory Oldham, W4RZ

Net control operators: Bob Garza K4TLG, Don Jones K4GO Ken Wallis KM4HOS, Richard Austin W4BYT

D-RATS Net Team Lead, Hank Blackwood, K4HYJ

Net control operators: Rial Sloan AI4ZV, Brian Freeman KN4DLT, Ed Walraven KM4IOA, Carter Grant KN4KBL

I would like to announce that Russell Prevost, AB4QQ, is now Winlink Net Manager, Kory Oldham, W4RZ, is Interim PSK and Traffic Nets Manager and Brian Freeman, KN4DLT, is D-RATS Net Manager. As net managers for their respective GA ARES Digital nets they will report to Don Jones, K4GO, Digital Net Manager and Assistant Section Traffic Manager. Please congratulate all three on their appointments.

Frank Hobbs - KN4QJ
GA STM, GA SNM

Planning is currently underway for the state-wide NVIS exercise. We should have the initial exercise scenario and exercise instructions available by early August. The exercise focus will be on county-level ARES groups, but individuals are welcome to participate. Are you out-of-state? Don't worry, you can play along too! <https://sites.google.com/w8byh.org/gaaresnviv/>

GA ARES Communications Upgrade

Current Web Site Situation:

The current Georgia ARES web site presents a problem when trying to communicate with members and potential members.

1. The site content is stale. Because there is little new content, the number of visitors is probably very low. There is no easy way to measure the traffic.
2. Because of the underlying application, the site is difficult to update.
3. After many years of faithful service to GA ARES, our webmaster wants to step back from the role.
4. The site has served us well, but there are now available features that can provide a more robust communications platform that is easier to manage.

Site Features

The new site will contain the following features.

1. Member Registration – Members of GA ARES can register and create a user profile. Registration provides many benefits including establishing restricted access to information that is not for the public to view. Example – The membership directory with profile information. If a password change is needed, members can initiate the reset without the intervention of an administrator. A complete member roster stored in a single location will be a huge benefit.
2. User Roles - Access is controlled by user roles and other criteria. Some information like the State Meeting or state level SET information is relevant to everyone. Other information is only relevant to a subset of members such as plans within the district or county.
3. Document Library - Documents can be uploaded to a folder structure with access provided privately and to visitors. An example of public content is the Georgia on My Mind Newsletter.
Documents will be stored in a central location rather than on members personal computers across the state. The system provides the capability of version control. Replacing a document with newer content does not delete the original document which is available if needed.
Documents are stored in a folder structure.

Folder permissions are assigned based on user roles. It may be possible to create folders down to the county (local group) level. The need to email copies of files to large groups will not be necessary. As the people occupying positions change, information can be easily passed to the next person. Some files such as PDF files can be viewed in a pop-up window without having to open the file in a new tab.

4. Calendar – A comprehensive calendar for net, meeting, exercise schedules will be easily updateable by members with assigned roles. When ARES Connect ended, many members stated that they missed the calendar with information from across the state. Finding VHF nets in adjoining counties was simple. All this information will again be in one location. The ability to link to a map is an included feature.
5. Search – The entire site is searchable including the membership database, document names, descriptions, tags, and calendar content.
6. News – Articles and notifications such as potential weather events can be published in a matter of minutes by anyone assigned to the appropriate role.

Other Important Items

If you have experience with WordPress and/or graphics creation, you are needed. Please contact:

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